THE PETITION OF The LORDS and COMMONS, PRESENTED To His Majeſtie

By the Earle of *Stamford*, Maſter Chancellour of the Exchequer, and Maſter *Hungerford*, April 18. 1642.

Together with His MAJESTIES Anſwer thereunto.

LONDON:
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MDCXLII.

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie,

YOur Majeſties moſt loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament have duly conſidered the Meſſage received from Your Majeſtie, concerning Your purpoſe of going into *Ireland* in Your own Perſon, to proſecute the warre there with the bodies of your *Engliſh* Subjects, leavied, tranſported, and maintained at their charge, which You are pleaſed to propound to us, not as a matter wherein Your Majeſtie deſires the advice of Your Parliament, but as already firmly reſolved on, and forthwith to be put in execution, by granting out Commiſſions for the leavying of two thouſand foot, & two hundred horſe for a guard for Your Perſon when You ſhall come into that Kingdom: wherein we cannot chuſe but with all reverence and humility to Your Majeſtie, obſerve that You have declined Your great Councell the Parliament, and varied from the uſuall courſe of Your Royall Predeceſſours, That a buſineſſe of ſo great importance concerning the peace and ſafety of all Your Subjects, and wherin they have a ſpeciall intereſt by Your Majeſties promiſe, and by thoſe great ſums which they have diſburſed, and for which they ſtand in-

gaged, ſhould be concluded and undertaken without their advice: Whereupon we hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time Your Majeſtie ſhal go into *Ireland*, You will very much endanger the ſafety of Your Royall Perſon and Kingdoms, and of all other States profeſſing the Proteſtant Religion in Chriſtendom, and make way to the execution of that cruell and bloudy Deſigne of the Papiſts every where to root out and deſtroy the reformed Religigion, as the *Iriſh* Papiſts have in a great part already effected in that Kingdom, and in all likelyhood would quickly be atempted in other places, if theconſideration of the ſtrength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* did not much hinder and diſcourage the execution of any ſuch Deſigne. And that we may manifeſt to Your Majeſtie the danger and miſery, which ſuch a journey and enterprize would produce, we preſent to Your Majeſtie the reaſons of this our humble opinion and advice.

1 YOur Royall Perſon will be ſubject, not onely to the caſualty of Warre, but to ſecret practices and conſpiracies, eſpecially Your Majeſtie continuing Your profeſſion to maintain the Proteſtant Religion in that Kingdom, which the Papiſts are generally bound by their vow to extirpate.

2 It will exceedingly encourage the Rebels, who doe generally profeſſe and declare, that Your Majeſtie doth favour & allow their proceedings, & that this inſurrection was undertaken by the Warrant of Your Commiſſion, and it will make good their expectation of great advantage by Your Majeſties preſence at this time of ſo much diſtraction in this Kingdom, whereby they may hope we ſhall be diſabled to ſupply the Warre there, e-

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ſpecially there appearing leſſe neceſſity of Your Majeſties Journey at this time, by reaſon of the manifold ſucceſſes which God hath given againſt them.

3. It will much hinder and impair the meanes whereby this war is to be ſupported, and increaſe the charge of it, and in both theſe reſpects, make it more inſupportable to your Subject: and this we can confidently affirme, becauſe many of the Adventurers, who have already ſubſcribed, do upon the knowledge of your Majeſties Intention, declare their reſolution, not to pay in their money; and others very willing to have ſubſcribed, do now profeſſe the contrary.

4. Your Majeſties abſence muſt neceſſarily very much interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, and deprive your Subjects of the benefit of thoſe further Acts of Grace, and Juſtice, which we ſhall humbly expect from your Majeſty, for the eſtabliſhing of a perfect union, and mutuall confidence betwixt Your Majeſty and Your People, and procuring and confirming the proſperity and happineſſe of both.

5. It will exceedingly increaſe the jealouſies and fears of your people, and render their doubts more probable, of ſome force intended by ſome evil counſells neer Your Majeſty, in oppoſition of the Parliament, and favour of the malignant party of this Kingdom.

6. It will bereave your Parliament of that advantage, whereby they were induced to undertake this war, upon Your Majeſties promiſe that it ſhould be managed by their advice; which cannot be done, if Your Majeſtie contrary to their counſells ſhall undertake to order and govern it in Your own Perſon.

Upon which and divers other reaſons we have reſolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both

Houſes, that we cannot with diſcharge of our dutie conſent to any Leavyes, or raiſing of Souldiers to be made by Your Majeſty for this your intended expedition into *Ireland*, or to the payment of any Army or Souldiers there, but ſuch as ſhall be imployed and governed according to our advice and direction; and that if ſuch Leavyes ſhalbe made by any Commiſſion of Your Majeſty (not agreed to by both Houſes of Parliament) we ſhall be forced to interpret the ſame to be raiſed to the terrour of Your people, and diſturbance of the publike peace, and hold our ſelves bound, by the Laws of the Kingdom, to apply the Authority of Parliament to ſuppreſſe the ſame.

And we do further moſt humbly declare, That if Your Majeſty ſhall by ill counſell be perſwaded to go, contrary to this advice of Your Parliament (which we hope Your Majeſty will not) We do not in that caſe hold our ſelves bound to ſubmit to any Commiſſioners, which Your Majeſty ſhall chooſe, but do reſolve to preſerve and governe the Kingdom by the counſell and advice of Parliament for Your Majeſtie and Your Poſteritie, according to our Allegiance, and the Law of the Land.

Wherefore we do moſt humbly pray, and adviſe Your Majeſtie, to deſiſt from this your intended paſſage into *Ireland*, and from all preparation of men and Armes tending thereunto, and to leave the managing of that war to Your Parliament, according to Your Majeſties promiſe made unto us, and Your Royall Commiſſion granted under Your great Seal of *England*, by advice of both Houſes, in proſecution whereof, by Gods bleſſing, we have already made a proſperous entrance by many defeats of the Rebels, whereby they are much weakened and diſheartened, and have no probable meanes of ſubſiſtance,

ſiſtance, if our proceedings ſhall not be interrupted by this interpoſition of Your Majeſties Journey, but that we may hope upon good grounds, that within a ſhort time, without Hazard of Your Majeſties perſon, and ſo much dangerous confuſion to Your Kingdoms (which muſt needs enſue) if you ſhould proceed in this reſolution, we ſhall be enabled fully to vindicate Your Majeſties right and authority in that Kingdom, and puniſh thoſe horrible outragious cruelties, which have been committed in the murthering and ſpoiling ſo many of your Subjects, and bring that Realm to ſuch a condition as may be much for the advantage of your Majeſtie, and this Crown, the honour of your government, and contentment of your people. For the better, and more ſpeedy effecting whereof, we do again renew our humble deſires of your return to your Parliament; and that you will pleaſe to reject all Counſels and apprehenſions, which may any way derogate from that faithfulneſſe and Allegiance, which in truth and ſinceritie we have alwayes born and profeſſed to Your Majeſty, and ſhall ever make good to the uttermoſt with our lives and fortunes.

His Majeſties Anſwer

To a Petition preſented to Him at *York*, April 18. 1642. by the Earle of *Stamford*, &c. in the name of both Houſes:

Concerning His Meſſage lately ſent to them, declaring His Reſolution to go into *Ireland*.

WE are ſo troubled and aſtoniſhed to finde the unexpected reception, and miſunderſtanding of Our Meſſage of the eighth of April, concerning Our Iriſh journey, that being ſo much diſappointed of the approbation and thanks We looked for to that Declaration; We have great cauſe to doubt, whether it be in Our power to ſay or do any thing which ſhall not fall within the like interpretation. But as We have in that Meſſage called God to witneſſe the ſincerity of the profeſſion of Our onely Ends for the undertaking that Journey: ſo We muſt appeal to all Our good Subjects, and the whole world, whether the Reaſons alleadged againſt that Journey be of weight to ſatisfie Our under-

understanding, or the counsell presented to disswade Us from it, be full of that duety as is like to prevail over Our affections.

For Our resolving of so great a Businesse without the Advice of Our Parliament; We must remember you howoften by Our Messages We made the same offer, if you should advise Us thereunto: To which you never gave Us the least answer: But in your late Declaration told Us, That ye were not to be satisfied with words: so that We had reason to conceive you rather avoided (out of regard to Our person) to give Us counsell to run that hazard, then that you disapproved the inclination. And what greater comfort or security can the Protestants of Christendome receive, then by seeing a Protestant King venture and engage His Person for the defence of that Profession, and the suppression of Popery, to which We solemnly protested in that Message, never to grant a Toleration, upon what pretence soever, or an Abolition of any of the Lawes there in force against the Professors of it. And when We consider the great calamities, and unheard of cruelties Our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdom have undergone for the space of neer, or full six Moneths, the growth and encrease of the strength of those barbarous Rebells, and the evident probabilitie of Forreign Supplies, (if they are not speedily suppressed) The very slow succours hitherto sent them from hence; That the Officers of severall Regiments, who have long since been allowed entertainment from you for that Service, have not raised any Supply or Succour for that Kingdom;

That many troups of Horse have long lien neer Chester untranspor̃ted; That the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on whom We relied principally for the Conduct and managing of Affairs there, is still in this Kingdom, notwithstanding Our earnestnesse expressed that he should repair to his Command; And when We consider the many and great scandals raised upon Our Self by report of the Rebells, and not sufficiently discountenanced here, notwithstanding so many professions of Ours; And had seen a Book lately printed by the Order of the House of Commons, Entituled; A Remonstrance of divers remarkable Passages concerning the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, Wherein some Examinations are set down, which (how improbable or impossible soever) may make an impression in the mindes of many of Our weak Subjects; And lastly, When We duely weigh the dishonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdom, if full and speedy relief be not dispatched thither, We could, nor cannot think of a better way to discharge Our duety to Almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant Profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kingdoms for their preservation, then by engaging Our Person in this Expedition, as many of Our Royall Progenitors have done, even in Forreign parts, upon causes of lesse Importance and Pietie, with great Honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdom: And therefore We expected at least thanks for such Our Inclination.

For the danger to Our Person; We conceive it necessary and worthy of a King to adventure His life

life to preſerve His Kingdom, neither can it be imagined, that We will ſit ſtill, and ſuffer Our Kingdoms to be loſt, and Our good Proteſtant Subjects to be Maſſacred, without expoſing Our own Perſon to the utmoſt hazard for their relief and preſervation: Our life, when it was moſt pleaſant, being nothing ſo precious to Us, as it is, and ſhall be to govern and preſerve Our people with Honour and Juſtice.

For any encouragement to the Rebells, becauſe of the reports they raiſed, We cannot conceive that the Rebells are capable of a greater Terrour, then by the preſence of their Lawfull King in the head of an Army to chaſtiſe them: Beſides, it will be an unſpeakable advantage to them, if any reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to do, if ſuch reports were not raiſed: This would quickly teach them, in this jealous Age, to prevent by ſuch reports any other perſons coming againſt them, whom they had no minde ſhould be ſo imployed.

We marvell that the Adventurers, whoſe advantage was a principall Motive (next the reaſon before mentioned) to Us, ſhould ſo much miſtake Our purpoſe, whoſe Intereſt we conceive muſt be much improved by the Expedition we hope (by Gods bleſſing) to uſe in this Service: this being the moſt probable way for the ſpeedy Conqueſt of the Rebells: Their Lands are ſufficiently ſecured by Act of Parliament.

We think not Our ſelf kindely uſed, That the addition of ſo few men to your Leavies (for a Guard to Our Perſon in Ireland) ſhould be thought fit for

your refusall: and much more, that having used so many Cautions in this Message, both in the smalnesse of the number: In Our having raised none untill your Answer: In their being to be raised onely neer their place of Shipping: In their being there to be Armed, and that, not till they were ready to be Shipped: In the provision, by the Oaths, that none of them should be Papists (all which appears sufficient to destroy all grounds of jealousie of any force intended by them in opposition to the Parliament, or favour to any malignant partie) any suspicion should notwithstanding be grounded upon it.

Neither can it be understood, That when We recommended the Managing of that War to you, That We intended to exclude Our self, or not to be concerned in your counsels, That if We found any expedient (which in Our conscience or understanding We thought necessary for that great work) We might not put it in practice. We look upon you as Our great Councell, whose advice We alwayes have and will (with great regard and deliberation) weigh and consider: But We look upon Our self, as neither deprived of Our understanding, or devested of any right we had, if there were no Parliament sitting. We called you together by Our own Writ and Authority (without which you could not have met) to give Us faithfull Counsell about Our great Affairs: But We resigned not up Our own Interest and Freedom. We never subjected Our self to your absolute determination. We have alwayes weighed your Counsels, as proceeding from a Body entrusted by Us: And when we

have

have dissented from you, We have returned you the Reasons, which have prevailed with our conscience and understanding, with that Candor as a Prince should use towards His Subjects; and that Affection, which a father can expresse to his children. What application hath been used to rectifie Our understanding by reasons, or what Motives have been given to perswade Our Affections, We leave all the world to judge. And then We must tell you, howsoever a Major part may binde you in matter of Opinion, We hold Our self (and We are sure the Law, and the Constitution of the Kingdom hath alwayes held the same) as free to dissent (till Our Reason be convinced for the generall Good) as if you delivered no Opinion.

For Our Journey it self, The circumstances of your Petition are such, as We know not well what answer to return, or whether We were best to give any. That part which pretends to carry reason with it, doth no way satisfie Us: The other, which is rather reprehension and Menace, then advice, cannot stagger Us. Our Answer therefore is, That we shall be very glad to finde the work of Ireland so easie as you seem to think it; which did not so appear by any thing known to Us, when we sent Our Message. And though we will never refuse, or be unwilling to venture Our person for the good and safetie of Our People; We are not so weary of Our life, as to hazard it impertinently. And therefore since you seem to have received Advertisements of some late and great Successes in that Kingdom, We will stay some time to see the event of those, and not pursue this Resolution, till we

have given you a second Notice. But if We finde the miserable Condition of Our poor Subjects of that Kingdom be not speedily releeved, We will (with Gods assistance) blut them with succours, as Our particular Credit and Interest can supply Us with, if you refuse to joyn with Us. And We doubt not but the Leavies We shall make (in which We will observe punctually the former, and all other Cautions, as may best prevent all Fears and Jealousies, and to use no Power but what is Legall) will be so much to the satisfaction of Our Subjects, as no person will dare presume to resist Our Commands; and if they should, at their perill. In the meane time We hope Our forwardnesse, so remarkable to that service, shall be notorious to al the world, and that all scandals laid on Us in that Businesse, shall be clearly wiped away.

We were so carefull that Our Journey into Ireland should not interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive Our Subjects of any Acts of Justice, or further Acts of Grace, for the reall benefit of Our People; That We made a Free offer of leaving such Power behinde, as should not onely be necessary for the Peace and Safetie of the Kingdom, but fully provide for the happy Progresse of the Parliament. And therefore We cannot but wonder, since such Power hath been alwayes left here by Commission for the Government of this Kingdom, when Our Progenitours have been out of the same during the sitting of Parliaments: and since your selves desired that such a Power might be left here by Us, at Our last going into Scotland, what Law of the Land have

have you now found to dispense with you, from submitting to such Authority Legally derived from Us in Our absence, and to enable you to Govern this Kingdom by your own meer Authoritie?

For Our return towards London, We have given you so full an Answer in Our late Declaration, and in Answer to your Petition presented to Us at York the 26 of March last, that We know not what to adde, if you will not provide for Our Security with you, nor agree to remove to another Place, where there may not be the same Danger to Us. We expected that (since We have been so particular in the Causes and Grounds of Our Fears) you should have sent Us word, that you had published such Declarations against future Tumults, and unlawfull Assemblies, and taken such Courses for the Suppressing of Seditious Sermons and Pamphlets, that Our Fears of that kinde might be laid aside, before you should presse Our return.

To Conclude, We could wish that you would (with the same strictnesse and severity) weigh and examine your Messages and Expressions to Us, as you do those you receive from Us: For We are very confident, that if you examine Our Rights and Priviledges, by what Our Predecessours have enjoyed; and your own addresses, by the usuall Courses of your Ancestors; ye will finde many Expressions in this Petition, warranted onely by your own Authority, which indeed We forbear to take notice of, or to give Answer to, lest We should be tempted (in a just indignation) to

expresse,

expresse a greater Passion, then We are yet willing to put on. God in his good time (We hope) will so inform the hearts of all Our Subjects, that We shall recover from the mischief and danger of this Distemper; On whose good pleasure We will wait with all patience and humilitie.

FINIS.

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